

Gitchell says. "But this is kind of a lifestyle audit in a way."

The Green Star program also measures how much a family drives and flies, what conservations call an "ecological footprint."

"Both my wife and I work and live in the same town, so we got some points for points for that," Gitchell says.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF SPC.
DONALD LAVERNE WHEELER,
JR. OF CONCORD, MICHIGAN

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2003

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a soldier from my neighborhood who was killed in Iraq. He was at his core a true American patriot. SPC. Donald Laverne Wheeler, Jr., DJ, as he was known to his friends, made the ultimate sacrifice for this country at age 22 years.

DJ was killed in Tikrit, Iraq on October 13, 2003 when his armored vehicle, on which he was the gunner, was attacked with a rocket-propelled grenade. Wheeler was searching for a possible improvised explosive device when his unit came under attack.

DJ joined the Army in November 2001, just after the 9/11 attacks, and said he wanted to fight against the evil. He felt it was his duty as an American. He was assigned to the U.S. Army's A Company, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, TX, and was sent to Iraq in March 2003.

His family has a history of military service. He is named after his uncle killed in the Korean War. His grandfather, one of his inspirations, was a World War II veteran.

DJ graduated from Lumen Christi High School in Jackson in 1999 where he was an offensive lineman on the team that made the regional finals. His coach described him as a good, solid, hardworking kid. More than this, however, DJ's spirit would fill any room he was in. He was nicknamed "Sunshine" by one of sergeants because he towered over his friends and was always smiling. Those who knew him recalled his sense of humor, his ability to make you laugh, and his generous spirit. While in Iraq he frequently wrote home asking for dollar bills and candy to hand out to Iraqi children.

What is so admirable about this individual is his dedication and the support from his family in Concord, MI. They deserve to be honored as much as he. DJ's parents, Donald and Mary Catherine Wheeler, fully support the actions in Iraq and the President. Even when tragedy touched their own lives and the lives of DJ's three sisters and eight brothers, this family calls on us to finish the work in Iraq that DJ helped begin.

Words cannot express the gratitude of a country. I honor this man today, and his family, for the great irreplaceable gift they have given our country, our ideals and our freedom.

HONORING ZION MISSIONARY
BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2003

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to bring to your attention that on September 19, 2003 the Zion Missionary Baptist Church of Saginaw, MI, celebrated their 135th year of praising and serving the Lord. The Church commemorated this milestone with a series of festivities, which included an old fashion worship service and play depicting the Church's history. The Church will conclude the celebration in December with a musical and All States Day.

Psalms 48:1-2 states "Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in his holy mountain. Beautiful in elevation, the joy of the whole earth, is Mount Zion on the sides of the north, the city of the great King." Zion Missionary Baptist Church was organized in 1868 with a membership of fifty. The Church family has grown considerably over the last 135 years. They have been blessed with eight different pastors, each one expressing a desire to see the church grow spiritually and physically. The most noted of these leaders is Reverend Roosevelt Austin, Sr., he became pastor in 1956, at a time when the Church was experiencing financial difficulty. Through prayer and perseverance, Reverend Austin balanced the Church books, and inspired the Church members to pledge toward a new building and expanded educational facility. Reverend Austin remained Pastor of Zion for 44 years, and at retirement the Church debt was paid in full. The Lord continued to send great leaders to Zion, in May of 2001 a young minister by the name of Reverend Rodrick Smith from Shreveport, LA answered the call, he was ordained by Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in Benton, LA in 1993. Under the direction of Reverend Smith the Church is continuing to expand and build upon the name of the Lord. Zion Missionary Baptist Church currently has 650 faithful followers of Christ. The Church thrives on the premise that the Holy Spirit and the Word of God should guide them, and the Pastor and Official Staff should work together in complete harmony. This firm belief has brought this Church through many trials. Zion Missionary Baptist Church is a dynamic force for the public good. They have consistently made a difference in the Saginaw area.

The inspiration for living by Christian ideals is repeated again and again in the lives of the ministers and congregation of this Church. Mr. Speaker, as a Member of Congress, I ask that my colleagues in the 108th Congress join me in saluting Zion Missionary Baptist Church for 135 years of celebrating and spreading the word of the Lord to the community of Saginaw, MI.

FREE TRADE IS FAIR TRADE

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2003

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, the following editorial from the October 19, 2003, edition of

the Omaha World-Herald expresses support for greater efforts to reach trade agreements that reduce tariffs and non-tariff barriers imposed against American exports. The phrase "fair trade" is often inaccurately counterposed against the phrase "free-trade." So-call free trade agreements should always be constructed to be fair to American business and farm enterprises and to exporters.

ADAPTING TO CHANGE

A demonstration in Lincoln last weekend expressed strong opposition to free trade. The rally was part of a national "fair trade" campaign critical of the North American Free Trade Agreement and of a planned Free Trade Area of the Americas.

The fact remains, though, that a free-enterprise economy such as the United States' functions best when it is shorn, for the most part, of artificial constraints such as tariffs and quotas. Opening up a country to trade promotes efficiency, reduces inflationary pressures and generates new opportunities in multiple directions.

A protectionist system stifles those crucial goals. Studies by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund have long pointed out that the countries that have experienced the greatest economic growth have been those that have embraced open markets and eschewed protectionism.

The anti-free-trade claims also offer illusory promises involving job security. Protectionism tidily promises to lock in the economic status quo. Ultimately, however, it lacks the power to ward off economic disruption. (The same holds true for any trading system; change is unavoidable.)

No wonder the loss of jobs at an automotive rubber-hose plant in Lincoln (as Goodyear shifts some of its production to Mexico) spurs an outcry among some residents. It's unrealistic, though, to imagine that the "fair trade" agenda provides a solution.

The fair-trade movement stresses, for example, that it is necessary to sharply ratchet up wages in developing countries so that the differential with U.S. pay rates can be greatly narrowed. Short of waving a magic wand, though, it's hard to see how that can be accomplished.

U.S. employment in traditional industry, such as steel or textiles, has declined for decades not as the result of any malevolent free-trade conspiracy but because of productivity gains and fundamental market forces—the signals sent by the decisions of autonomous companies and consumers, as well as a serious overcapacity in supply and, in the case of steel, extraordinary pension costs.

The prescriptions of anti-free-trade organizers cannot erase those basic economic realities.

The demonstrators in Lincoln took particular aim at the North American Free Trade Agreement. Mexico, however, is establishing ever-greater economic links to Nebraska. Mexico is now the state's No. 2 foreign export market, exceeded only by Canada.

In recent years, Nebraska's exports to Mexico have increased far more than the state's exports to any other nation. In 2000, the state's exports to Mexico totaled \$266 million. In 2002, they totaled \$465 million.

Free trade does not promise an economic utopia. In fact, a free market by definition means that a society will face a certain degree of economic change—job losses, but also new opportunities. The proponents of "fair trade," in contrast, exaggerate the ability of their ideas to cocoon the U.S. economy from the marketplace.

Change is inevitable. A free-market system, bolstered by open trade, best encourages the dynamism and flexibility that enable a national economy to prosper.